REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Official Action mailed **24 August 2006** the Examiner reviewed claims 1-10, 13-22, and 25-33. Claims 7, 19 and 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Claims 5, 8, 17, 20, 29 and 32 were objected to under 37 C.F.R. §1.75(c) as being of improper dependent form. Claims 1-5, 9, 13-17, 21, and 25-29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Abramson et al. (USPN 6,539,494, hereinafter "Abramson") in view of Purpura (USPN 6,421,768, hereinafter "Purpura"). Claims 6, 7, 10, 18, 19, 22, 30, 31, and 33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Abramson, and Purpura, and further in view of Fielder et al. (USPN 6,105,133 hereinafter "Fielder").

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 101 (Claims 13-22)

Examiner rejected claims 13-22 under 35 U.S.C. §101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Accordingly, Applicant has amended page 6, line 26 through page 7, line 6 in the instant application to elide embodiments of computer-readable storage media that are directed to non-statutory subject matter. No new matter has been added. Hence, Applicant respectfully submits that, in view of the specification as presently amended, the claims 13-22 are directed to statutory subject matter under 35 U.S.C. §101.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112 (Claims 7, 19, and 31)

Examiner rejected claims 7, 19, and 31 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to disclose the limitation of "checkpointing the updated running message digest to a location outside of the first server."

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Applicant respectfully point out that page 5, line 1 of the instant application discloses "checkpoints the updated running message digest to a location outside of the first server." Hence, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 7, 19, and 31 comply with the written description requirement under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph.

Claim Objections (Claims 5, 8, 17, 20, 29, and 32)

Examiner objected to claims 5, 8, 17, 20, 29, and 32 as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim.

Accordingly, Applicant has canceled claims 5, 8, 17, 20, 29, and 32 without prejudice.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Independent claims 1, 13, and 25 were rejected as being unpatentable over Abramson in view of Purpura.

Applicant respectfully points out that **the present invention is directed to sharing an active secure connection** (e.g., an active SSL connection) between web servers by sharing session encryption keys and sharing message digests between the web servers (see page 4, lines 2-11 of the instant application).

In contrast, **Abramson cannot share an active secure connection** between web servers. Abramson discloses sharing application data (e.g., user profile data and shopping cart data) between application server 24a and backup server 26a (see Abramson, col. 5, line 31 through col. 6, line 14, FIG. 5). However, since Abramson does not disclose sharing data between HTTP servers 22a and 22b, Abramson cannot share an active secure connection between HTTP servers 22a and 22b (see Abramson, col. 5, line 31 through col. 6, line 14, FIG. 5).

Further, Applicant respectfully points out that **Purpura teaches away** from the present invention.

In Purpura's invention, first server 110 sends cookie 150 to the second server 120 via the user's computer 100 (see Purpura, col. 3, lines 37-47, FIG. 1, FIG. 2). In contrast, the present invention is specifically directed to share session encryption keys **without communicating with the user's computer** (see page 4, lines 2-11 of the instant application). Hence, Purpura teaches away from the present invention because it requires second server 120 to communicate with user's computer 100 to obtain cookie 150 (see Purpura, col. 3, lines 37-47, FIG. 1, FIG. 2).

Hence, Applicant respectfully points out that the present invention is not obvious in view of Abramson and Purpura because (1) Abramson does not disclose or suggest sharing session encryption keys between HTTP servers, and (2) Purpura teaches away from the present invention.
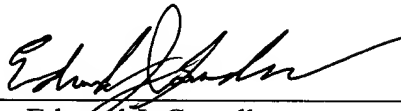
Accordingly, Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 13, and 25 to clarify that (1) the state information includes a session encryption key which is retrieved from another server (this is in contrast to Abramson which does not disclose sharing session encryption keys between HTTP servers), and (2) the state information is retrieved from a third server which is different from the client (this is in contrast to Purpura's invention which retrieves the cookie from the client). These amendments find support on page 4, lines 2-11 of the instant application. Further, Applicant has amended dependent claims 6, 18, and 30 to place the claims in proper dependent form.

Hence, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 13, and 25 as presently amended are in condition for allowance. Applicant also submits that claims 2-10, which depend from claim 1, claims 14-22, which depend from claim 13, and claims 26-33, which depend from claim 25, are for the same reasons in condition for allowance and for reasons of the unique combinations recited in such claims.

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CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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